



RGSQ Bulletin

December 2018

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Patron: [H.E. Paul de Jersey AC, Governor of Queensland](#)

President: Dr Iraphne Childs

From the President

Dear members, as 2018 draws to a close it is time to reflect on a momentous year for the Society. I would like to thank all those members who have continued to support and assist RGSQ through this year of change. Of necessity, we have been a “movable feast” in our lecture and meeting venues but have always been encouraged by members and non-members continuing to attend our excellent program of presentations. We also reflect with sadness on the passing, this year, of several long-standing members whom we remember with gratitude for their contributions to RGSQ. We now have a new home in Spring Hill which is currently undergoing some fit-out modifications. It is hoped that we can start the new year with an official opening and welcome in February.



Christmas around the world happens in many landscapes, climes and formats. Here are some interesting Christmas celebrations and feasting traditions from different parts of the world.

In Bethlehem, a star is set on a pole in the village square and Christmas is celebrated by the Protestant, Catholic, Greek Orthodox, Egyptian Coptic, Syrian and Armenian churches. Services are conducted at the same time in different languages in different parts of the Church of the Nativity. Deep winding stairs lead to a grotto where there is a 14-point silver star marking the site of the birth of Jesus. Feasting includes turkey spiced with pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg, and stuffed with rice, pine nuts and almonds.

In Ethiopia Christmas is celebrated on the 7th of January (Eastern Orthodox, Julian calendar). Christmas Mass takes place both in ancient churches carved from volcanic rock and also in modern churches designed in three concentric circles. Pilgrims receive candles as they enter the church and walk around the circles three times. Feasting includes sourdough pancakes and spicy chicken stew.

In Norway the Christmas gnome, *Nisse*, guards farm animals and plays tricks on children who forget to leave him a bowl of porridge and *Julebuk*, a goat-like being who traditionally accompanied the Viking god Thor, makes an appearance. Norwegian Christmas fare includes lye-treated codfish, boiled potatoes, rice porridge, gingerbread and punch.

In India Christians decorate banana and mango trees, fill churches with red poinsettia flowers, give presents to family and charities and place clay oil-lamps on rooftops and walls. Christmas foods include Jalebi cakes, Mathri flaky biscuits and spicy coconut sweets.

In Canada, in Nova Scotia, descendants of Scottish highlanders sing carols and *belsnicklers* (masked mummers) ring bells and go from house to house seeking treats such as maple cream cookies. In British Columbia Christmas turkey may be accompanied by smoked salmon, with a dessert of Christmas pudding with brandy sauce – most like an English Christmas.

Reference: <http://www.santas.net/aroundtheworld.htm>

Maybe you'd like to try some of those dishes – even bring some to our RGSQ Christmas gathering!☺ – on Tuesday 4th December at the Lavalla Centre, Paddington.

Meanwhile, can you identify the geographical origin of these Christmas greetings?

Feliz navidad, Selamat hari natal, Nadolig Llawen, Zalig Kerstfeest, Mele kalikimaka, Buon Natale, Craciun fericit, Joyeux Noël, Merii Kurisumasu, Nollaig shone dhuit, Wesolych Swiat Bozego, Narodzenia, Idah saidan wa sanah Jadidah, Frohliche Weihnachten, Shengdan jie kuai le, Kala Christougena, Nollaig chridheil, Schastlivogo Rozhdestva!

Find out if you are correct at the Christmas party! I hope to see you there.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas, good health and happiness, peace and prosperity in the New Year.

Dr Iraphne Childs

RGSQ Office closed over Christmas and New Year holiday season

The RGSQ Office will close on Friday, December 21, 2018 and reopen on Monday, January 7, 2019.

If you would like to contact us during this period, please email info@rgsq.org.au.

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland would like to thank all of our members for their involvement and support throughout the year and wish members and their families a wonderful holiday season and an exciting geographical new year!

2018-2019 RGSQ Council

President	Iraphne Childs
Vice-President	Peter Griggs
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PHOTOGRAPHY

Jenman African Safaris, Leo Scanlan, Kathryn Scott, QLD Department of Lands, Department of Natural Resources, RGSQ Map Collection

SYNOPSIS: NOVEMBER LECTURE

"To Antarctica and beyond: Expanding leadership horizons for women in STEMM"

by Kathryn Scott



Kathryn Scott amongst Antarctic sea ice; courtesy of K. Scott

Kathryn Scott dreamed of visiting Antarctica since age 12, when a school science and technology project sparked her 20-year captivation with the icy continent. In February 2018, Kathryn achieved her childhood dream as one of 78 women from 18 countries comprising the second Homeward Bound cohort, and the largest all-female expedition to Antarctica. Homeward Bound is a global outreach initiative that emerged from the recognition of the paucity of women in leadership positions generally, and in science, technology, engineering, mathematics and medicine (STEMM) fields specifically, and the cost of this to our planet. The project's vision is - 'within 10 years from the inaugural voyage in 2016, build a global network of 1,000 women in STEMM to influence policy and decision-making as it shapes the future of our planet'.

The 22-day Antarctic expedition marked the culmination of a 12-month virtual program, which facilitated participants' leadership development, strategic capability, science collaboration, and visibility and science communication skills. The 2018 cohort varied in

ages, career stages and professions, ranging from engineers to economists, United Nations advisors to pilots, social scientists to secondary science teachers, veterinarians to marine biologists, and even a member of the team awarded the 2017 Nobel prize in Physics. One of the catch-lines of Homeward Bound is 'stronger together', which recognises the collective capability of the network, a pertinent component for women who often battle self-doubt as an additional hurdle as they navigate complex, and at times isolating, leadership landscapes.



Oli Sansom ships bow Neko Harbour, HB18; courtesy of K. Scott

Antarctica forms an ideal backdrop, not only because it draws global attention, but is an isolated environment apt for the introspection required for immersion in a program of Homeward Bound's magnitude. It also enables participants to observe first-hand the value and relative fragility of the isolated continent, which is increasingly vulnerable to threats such as climate change, pollution, invasive species, and over-exploitation. The expedition took participants from Ushuaia, Argentina down as far as 68 degrees south along the Antarctic peninsula, with 15 shore landings and many encounters with spectacular scenery and an array of wildlife, including whales (Humpback, Minke and Orcas), seals (Fur, Crabeater, Elephant and Leopard) and penguins (Chinstrap, Gentoo and Adelie). Participants also visited six staffed bases – two Argentinian (Camara and Carlini), a Chinese (Great Wall), a United States (Palmer station) and two United Kingdom bases (Port Lockroy and Rothera). Meeting the scientists and support staff who are stationed for periods ranging between three and 18 months provided valuable insights into the strength of leadership and community needed to live and work in Antarctica.

In reflecting on her experience through Homeward Bound, Kathryn resonated strongly with the term, 'immense' - the immense capability of the participants individually and collectively, the immensity of the place Antarctica, and the immense potential of the program to have a large and lasting impact on our world over its decade lifespan and beyond. The Homeward Bound project has already reached one third of its target of 1,000 women in STEMM and the third cohort is preparing to depart for their Antarctic expedition on 31 December 2018. For more information, visit the website www.homewardboundprojects.com.au.

UPCOMING EVENTS



RGSQ Christmas Celebration

Date: Tuesday, December 4

Time: 7:30pm-9:00pm

Venue: Lavalla Centre, 58 Fernberg Rd, Paddington QLD 4064

Cost: \$5 per person - members, \$7 per person non-members

RSVP: Wednesday, 28 November, <https://rgsq.org.au/whatson> or contact the Office on 07 3368 2066

The President warmly invites RGSQ members and guests to enjoy a final get together for 2018.

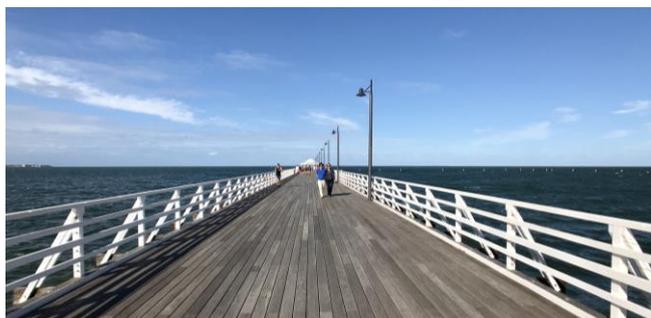
Come along and reminisce over your geographical adventures and catch up with your friends.

The registration cost will cover drinks, tea, coffee and Christmas cake. It would be much appreciated if members are able to bring a plate to share.

I look forward to greeting you all on the night. On behalf of the RGSQ, I extend best wishes and season's greetings to all members and friends of RGSQ.

February 19, 2019: A February Frolic

Join us on 19 February 2019 for a gentle introduction to RGSQ activities for 2019



Phot: By Kgbo [CC BY-SA 4.0 (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0>)], Wikimedia Commons

WHAT: a guided walk along Shorncliffe Pier & local walking tracks through Lower Moora Park

MEET: in a picnic shelter beside the car park near the pier

TIME: no later than 10.00am

BEGIN: with some nibbles to build energy for our activity

NEXT: our guide will describe and explain the plaques along the walkway on the pier

THEN: return to the picnic shelter for a light lunch
AFTER LUNCH: a walk through lower Moora Park

The first pier, 350m long and erected in 1882, was called the Sandgate pier. Near the shore line, one each side of the pier, were separate swimming pools for ladies and gentlemen. By 1939 it was possible to swim from Woody Point to Shorncliffe protected in a crate. The current pier, the Shorncliffe Pier, was opened in 2016 just in time for the start of the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race.

CARE: be SunSmart, wear walking shoes, bring a water bottle &, perhaps, your camera

BRING: a cup/glass, plate and cutlery

COST: \$27.00

BOOK and Pay: by 5th February at

<https://rgsq.org.au/whatson>

Coordinator: Audrey Johnston

Geography in the Spotlight

by Iraphne Childs



Geography: Shaping Australia's Future is a strategic plan for Australian geography prepared by the **National Committee for Geographical Science**, a committee of the Australian Academy of Science in Canberra. As a financial supporter of the Plan, the RGSQ logo will be displayed on the cover of the document. Dr. Iraphne Childs, RGSQ President, represents RGSQ on the National Committee and will attend the launch of the Plan in Sydney on November 22nd. The Plan includes a chapter on the "Public Geographical Societies" in Australia including the RGSQ.

The plan presents the state of play of geography as a discipline in Australia, provides a unified vision for Australian geography over the next decade and offers a framework for engaging research, teaching and industry that aligns strategically with contemporary social, economic and environmental challenges of our region.

Addressing twenty-first century problems of sustainable development, climate change, regional development, environmental degradation and biodiversity loss necessitates an increasingly whole-of-government, industry and academia approach. *The breadth and depth afforded by geographical understandings to these problems strongly positions Australian geographers to provide evidence-based research—informing and advancing innovative policy and practice.* Given the need for an integrated approach, it is recommended that Australian governments at all levels better understand how Geography as a discipline enhances complex, multi-sectoral policy decisions by integrating knowledge across natural and built environments, society and the humanities through its unique perspectives of space, place and the environment.

Key recommendations in the plan are:

- That the significant role that Geography plays in schools, universities, research organizations, government and industry, and the contribution of the discipline to Australia's society and economy, is enhanced;

- That the work of Australian geographers is increasingly cited and referenced in policy and strategic documents;
- That there are a greater number of scholarships for graduate geography students to pursue research in government priority areas;
- That the National Committee for Geographical Sciences works with the Australian Academy of Science and other stakeholders to enhance school geography education (for example, by encouraging or making compulsory geography study to Year 10);
- That the Australian Bureau of Statistics recognises Geography as a discipline in both the Fields of Research Codes and the Field of Education Codes. Not doing so places Geography at a disadvantage compared to other disciplines, weakening its identity both within and outside universities.

Reference: National Committee for Geographical Sciences (NCGS), Australian Academy of Science, Canberra.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

KEN SUTTON MEMORIAL LIBRARY GROUP

The group will meet on Monday, the 25th of February 2019, from 9.30am to 12 noon.

Venue: Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill, 4000



UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR DECEMBER 2018

If you are interested in the events below and would like to investigate joining the Map Group, please contact the Map Group

Coordinator, Bob Abnett, via mobile 0412 135 794 or email abnett@powerup.com.au. Enquiries welcome.

Mon, 03 December 2018, 9.30am – 11.30am

Map Group End of Year Gathering - Geography Related Objects "Show and Tell"

Details

End of year celebration morning tea. Bring along an interesting object, map or artefact for "Show and Tell". Bring refreshments plate, sweet or savory.

NOTE: Mitchelton library meeting room not available after 11.30am, but an outside deck for refreshments can be used on the day; extending the social aspect of this gathering beyond 11.30am.

Location

BCC's Mitchelton Library: [37 Heliopolis Parade, Mitchelton QLD 4053](#) (south of Samford Road and Brookside Shopping Centre)

Transport: Members to make own arrangements - Map Group's car-pooling list will help some members

Cost: Given the change in venue, there will be a \$2 donation for morning tea, as the venue has a kitchen for tea/coffee and an area for serving refreshments.

Transport

Members to make own arrangements

Co-ordinator: Bob Abnett (07) 3820-2621; 0412 135 794

abnett@powerup.com.au

REPORT: MAP GROUP – NOVEMBER 2018 GATHERING: SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS

Seventeen members of the Map Group, plus two guests, including the current RGSQ President, made up an audience of nineteen gathered to listen to and view four separate presentations made by the Map Group members on the broader topic of "*Sharing the Knowledge*". The presentations are summarised below.

Les Isdale on "Mapping Practice Prior to Digitisation: Traditional Cartographic Method"

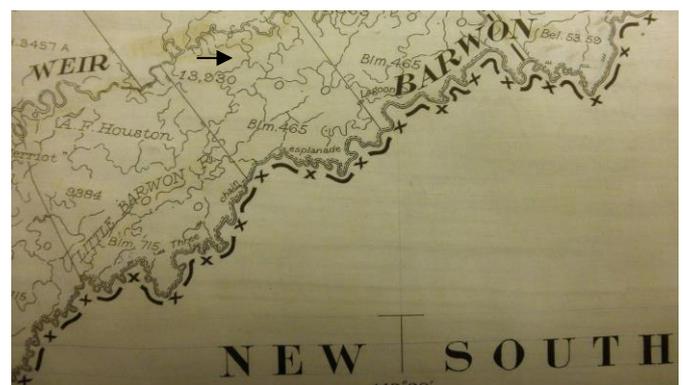
Les started work in cartography back in 1947, when traditional mapping methods were used and he gave Map Group members an idea of that era of mapping. In summary, he covered a number of aspects behind cartographic mapping in the mid-XX century, where accuracy, or the achieving of accuracy, was paramount to producing a map. These aspects were emphasised as follows:

The Underlying Science was explained in relation to:

- Global specifications: where Queensland is in the world;
- Coordinate systems: where we are within Queensland;
- Queensland's 1927 Sheet System: a numbered reference grid of maps across the State;
- CAM (County Arbitrary Meridian): allowed simplified surveys across Counties located within Queensland.

Compilation Practice for Cadastral Mapping: a dominant form of mapping at the time, in relation to:

- Calculated closes: closing survey lines around a parcel of land;
- Drafting process: concerned with achieving accuracy;
- Drafting instruments: seeking greater accuracy, via mechanical processes; *Mechanical calculators used in cartography;* → *UK Science Museum.*
- Cadastral maps – the end product of the cartography.



Source: Qld Department of Lands

Jim Graham and Peter Nunan on "What's in the RGSQ Library and Map Collections?"

Jim and Peter spoke to examples taken from both the Text and Map Libraries. In summary they covered the following:

Jim spoke about a number of Government Reports focussed on regional land development within Queensland from the 1930s to the late 1980s, along with the maps accompanying the reports. These reports included:

- Royal Commission Reports in 1932 and 1959 (fairly thin volumes compared to those of today). The 1932 Report was quite blunt and critical of the Queensland Forestry Department and its “wholesale grab for lands”, something that does not occur in today’s written reports;
- The 1963 Report on the Economics of the Brigalow Scheme;
- The 1965 Department of National Development’s Report on the Regions – e.g. the Fitzroy Region;
- DPI’s Cropping Shires Series, published in the 1960s and 1970s, and aimed at helping ‘educate’ farmers via handbooks containing scientific knowledge of water resources, vegetation, soils and the like, with maps to help explain this information. This series was outside the Queensland sugar regions, and primarily covered inland regions of the State e.g. Emerald (in the 1970s, Peter Lloyd, a Map Group member, worked on some of these studies); and
- 1989 Cape York Peninsula Resources Study (completed by a private consultant for the government) with a focus on a “space station concept” within Cape York (in 1990, another Map Group member, Bob Abnett, undertook some work on the “space station concept” in relation to the industrial supply chain opportunities that may emerge in Brisbane).

Peter spoke, primarily, on the **Maritime Zone of Australia** and the **Outlying Islands**, which are a part of this huge Zone surrounding Australia. Many islands are part of this Zone and maps of some of them were on display - the Cocos Islands, Lord Howe Island, Heard Island and also the Australian Antarctica Territory. Peter explained each map (all of which differed in cartographic style and levels of information) and various Map Group members were seen perusing each map during morning tea. Peter, then, briefly explained how RGSQ’s Map Library is organised and where various maps are placed.

📍 **Len Lowry on “The History of the Digital Cadastral Database (DCDB)”**

Len started work with the Queensland Survey Office as a 16 year old in 1961 and he, too, was in the world of traditional surveying and mapping techniques. It was also a very conservative work environment then and Len told one story of when he called Les Isdale (a senior cartographer by the early 1960s) “Les” and the reply was “You can call me Mr Isdale!” ... and, here we are, all these years later, in the Map Group! What a “great equaliser” our little group is!!

Anyway, in due course (1983), Len moved onto the early world of digital mapping - “from works of art (cartographic mapping of the 1960s and 1970s) to digital images”. As we all know, the world of “digital images” now dominates mapping and many other aspects of 21st century life.

Len worked on the early versions of the **Digital Cadastre Database (known as the DCDB)** – Bob Abnett, a map group member, was a user of this mapping system in the 1990s). This form of mapping was a spatial representation of Queensland, not a survey of the State. The DCDB built on what Queensland had at the time (hard copy maps), with the aim of creating a “unique property identification system, across Queensland”. It has evolved since the early 1980s into the base for a **Land Information System (LIS)** on which users have the capacity to overlay other data sets.

Some of the issues which emerged in compiling the DCDB were as follows:

Accuracy

This became a major issue and related to:

- Survey lines on maps, with the thickness of the line lowering accuracy on the ground from 1.5 metres to 637 metres, depending upon the scale of the source map and the scale of the digital image;
- Other errors relating to location, parallax, and registration of parcels of land.

Lack of knowledge and contracting out digital mapping services

The State Government no longer had ‘in-house’ knowledge, as with surveying and cartography, and had to contract out the digital mapping tasks to consulting surveying companies. They, too, were “learning on the job”, so map task specifications were established and many cross checks undertaken, to ensure the contracted work met the requirements of the mapping jobs;

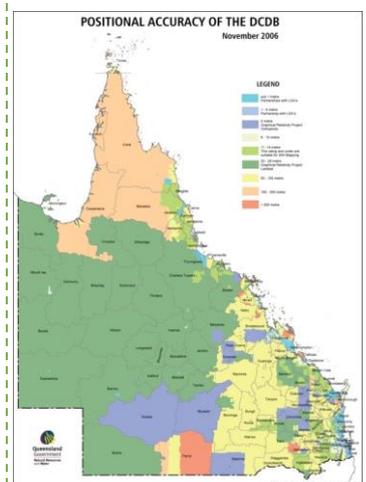
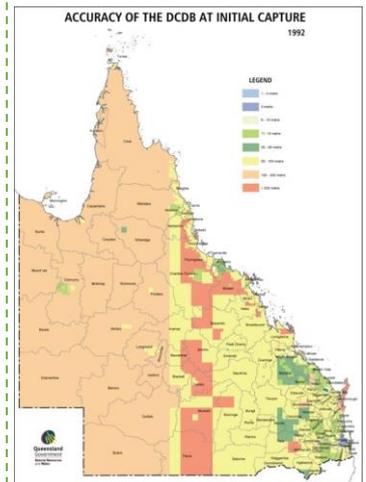
Continually changing technologies

This period was the beginning of new and emerging mapping technologies, such as CAD (computer-aided design) and orthophoto mapping (showed conflicting data via imagery), hence, adaptation was constant.

Improved accuracy

A state-wide check of accuracy, over time, was a part of the DCDB’s evolution. In 2006, a map of Queensland compared the increase in accurate coverage between 1992 and 2006 – see adjacent images. *Map source: Department of Natural Resources*

by Bob Abnett, Co-ordinator, Map Group



2019 Australian Geography Competition

2019 Tent Calendar mailout November 2018

Thank you to John Fairbairn, Patrick McKewin, Len Lowry, Mary and John Nowill and Sue Reid for folding 3695 calendars and placing them along with cover-letters in envelopes ready for mailing to schools.

I have been remiss in thanking John Tasker and Giselle Pickering, Young Geographers who have been assisting with redeveloping the Competition’s data management, analysis and report throughout the year.

Volunteers to assist with the 2019 Competition

In 2019, the Competition will again require assistance from Society members. The following are the 2019 Volunteer days:

January: Tuesday 15 to Friday 18 January – Mailout of Competition Information Packs including Teacher Reminder letters. This mailout requires labels to be stuck on large envelopes and a few items placed within the envelopes.

March: Tuesday 5 to Friday 8 March – Mailout of Competition Question packs. This mailout requires counting/weighing of question booklets and answer sheets

and placing them in large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This is a complex mailout which requires 6-8 volunteers per day.

April/May: Monday 8 April to Friday 3 May – scanning of answer sheets. This task requires concentration and attention to detail. The days volunteers are required is dependent on the timing and number of returned answer sheets.

June: Tuesday 11 to Friday 14 June – mailout of Certificates, results and prizes. This mailout requires the sorting and packing of student certificates and results sheets into large envelopes, post satchels or boxes. This task requires concentration and attention to detail.

November: Tuesday 5 to Friday 8 November – mailout of 2020 Date Claimer.

Bulletin Submissions

This is the last issue of the RGSQ Bulletin for 2018. The first issue of 2019 will be sent to members at the end of January 2019.

We always welcome member contributions for publication. If you would like to share your story and have it published in the RGSQ Bulletin, please send it to info@rgsq.org.au by Tuesday, January 15, 2019. Until next year, have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

RGSQ Bulletin

December 2018

Lecture/Meeting: Tuesday, 4 December
RGSQ Christmas Celebration

Map Group: Monday, 3 December

9:30am - 11:30pm: **Map Group End of Year Gathering: Geography Related Objects "Show and Tell"**, Venue: Mitchelton Library

Ken Sutton Memorial Library: Monday, 25 February, 9:30am – 12:00 noon, Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, 4000

The February Council will meet on the third Tuesday of the month

The Royal Geographical Society of Queensland Inc
Level 1, 28 Fortescue St, Spring Hill QLD 4000

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